

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of August 8, 2005. Claims 4-5, 9, 13-16, and 19-21 are amended as shown. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 10, and 18 were previously canceled. With this amendment, claims 1, 3-9, 11-17, and 19-21 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 9, 11-12, 14, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuo (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,016). The Examiner allowed claims 1, 3-4, and 6-8. The Examiner objected to claim 13 but indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim. The applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner further provided a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter with regards to independent claims 1, 4 and 7. Accordingly, the other rejected independent claims have been amended to include recitations consistent with the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner.

For example, independent claims 5, 9, 15, and 20-21 are amended to recite (using varying language) the diode(s) coupled between the output(s) and ground. Independent claim 16 is amended to recite the allowable feature of bipolar transistors from claim 13. Independent claim 19 is amended to recite recitations consistent with those of allowed claim 1. With these amendments, independent claims 5, 9, 15, and 20-21 are now allowable.

Claim 4 (previously allowed) and claims 13-14 are amended to clarify the language contained therein. These and other pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to

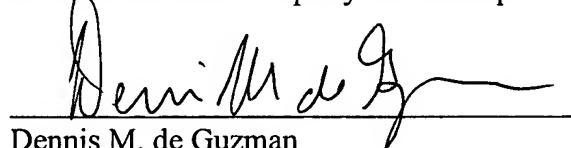
specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Dennis M. de Guzman  
Registration No. 41,702

DMD:wt

Enclosure:  
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092  
Phone: (206) 622-4900  
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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